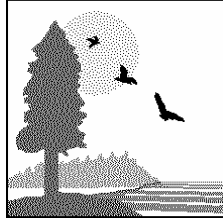


**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202



**PAUL D. THAYER**, *Executive Officer*

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**SCH No. 200401511388**

CSLC EIR No. 731

CSLC File #'s: W25980; W30156

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY / PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT /**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Section 15085 (d), Title 14, California Code of Regulations, this is to advise that the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) have completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS) for the proposed Project described below:

**Project Title:** Monterey Accelerated Research System (MARS) Cabled Observatory

**Project Location:** Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean offshore of Moss Landing, Monterey County, California.

**Project Description:** Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (Applicant and operator of the cable) proposes to install the MARS cabled observatory, which will serve as the engineering test bed for future cabled observatories. MARS will be located in one science node on 51 kilometers (km) of submarine cable. The cable route extends from Moss Landing (Monterey Bay, California) towards the northwest, to the north of the Monterey Canyon, and along the continental margin to the southeastern part of the Smooth Ridge. The Applicant proposes to bury the cable along most of the route to a depth of one meter, where feasible, using a hydraulically operated plow that is towed by a cable installation vessel. The Applicant anticipates the cable would operate for a minimum of 25 years.

The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (the CEQA) and is responsible for preparation of this DEIR/EIS. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is the federal Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The 45-day public review period for this DEIR/EIS begins March 11, 2005, and ends on April 26, 2005. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, written comments must be **received by 12:00 o'clock noon, Monday, April 26, 2005**. Please send your comments at the earliest possible date to either of the individuals listed below:

Stephen L. Jenkins, Project Manager  
California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Phone: (916)574-1814  
E-mail: jenkins@slc.ca.gov

Deirdre Hall, Project Manager  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Phone: (831) 647-4207  
E-mail: deirdre.hall@noaa.gov

The CSLC encourages you to send your comments to the Project Managers listed above in MS Word format. If sending comments by e-mail, please also mail an original on any applicable letterhead to the California State Lands Commission office to ensure receipt of a clean copy.

This document, identified as CSLC EIR Number 731 and State Clearinghouse Number 200401511388, may be viewed electronically, in Word or Acrobat format, on the CSLC internet website at <http://www.slc.ca.gov>. Copies of the DEIR/EIS are also available for review at the following locations:

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| CSLC, Attn: Stephen L. Jenkins<br>100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South<br>Sacramento, CA 95825<br>(916) 574-1814 | MBNMS, Attn: Deirdre Hall<br>299 Foam Street<br>Monterey, CA 93940<br>(831) 647-4207 | Monterey Co. Library, Pajaro<br>29 Bishop Street<br>Pajaro, CA 95076-5266<br>(831) 761-2545 |
| Monterey Co. Library, Castroville<br>11266 Merritt Street<br>Castroville, CA 95012-3420<br>(831) 633-2829  | Central Library<br>224 Church Street<br>Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3810<br>(831) 420-5700  | Monterey Public Library<br>625 Pacific Street<br>Monterey, CA 93940<br>831-646-5601         |

### **Public Hearing:**

Pursuant to Section 15087, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (the State CEQA Guidelines), the CSLC and MBNMS have scheduled two public meetings for receiving oral and written comments on the DEIR/EIS at:

LOCATION: Moss Landing Marine Lab, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA  
DATE: Wednesday, April 7, 2005  
TIME: Meetings begin at 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm

Anyone interested in this matter is invited to comment on the document by written response or by personal appearance at the public meetings. A sign language interpreter will be provided upon advance notification of need by a deaf or hearing-impaired person. Such notice should be made as soon as possible prior to the date of the meetings to the CSLC Project Manager identified in this Notice.

### **Potential Significant Impacts on the Environment:**

The DEIR/EIS discusses the potential for significant impacts on the environment in the following subject areas: Air Quality, Commercial and Recreational Fisheries, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Marine and Near-Coastal Biological Resources, Marine Water and Sediment Quality and Oceanography, Marine Vessel Transportation, Noise, and Environmental Justice.

PAUL D. THAYER  
Executive Officer